In response to the Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 57, 60 and 61, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 24, 26, and 27 as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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24. (Five Times Amended) An image processing device comprising:

a scanner for inputting an image signal;

a control unit including a control circuit adapted for controlling said device and performing image processing necessary for copying on the image signal input from said scanner to provide a first processed image signal;

a first bidirectional general-purpose interface for transmitting the image signal input by said scanner under control of said control unit to an external computer, which performs image processing necessary for copying on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer; and

a second bidirectional general-purpose interface of a same standard as said first bidirectional general-purpose interface adapted for outputting the first processed image signal

and the second processed image signal to a printer,

wherein said device has a plurality of modes including a first copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from said scanner is outputted to said printer using the external computer, and a second copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from said scanner is outputted to said printer without using the external computer, the image signal from said scanner being automatically transmitted in order of: said control unit, said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, the external computer, said first bidirectional interface, said control unit, and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface in the first copying mode so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, and

the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of: said control unit and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface, in the second mode so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal.

26. (Thrice Amended) The device according to claim 24, wherein the external computer includes a modem capable of processing the image signal received through said first bidirectional general-purpose interface and transmitting the image signal to a public telephone line.

27. (Five Times Amended) An image processing method for an image processing device, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image signal by a scanner;

performing image processing necessary for copying on the input image signal by using a control unit for controlling the image processing device to provide a first processed image signal;

transmitting the image signal input by the scanner under control of the control unit to an external computer via a first bidirectional general-purpose interface to be processed, by image processing necessary for copying, into a second processed image signal;

receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer via the first bidirectional general-purpose interface;

outputting the first or the second processed image signal to a printer via a second bidirectional general-purpose interface of a same standard as said first bidirectional general-purpose interface;

performing copying based on the second processed image signal in a first copying mode, in which the image signal inputted from the scanner is outputted to the printer without using the external computer by transmitting the image signal from the scanner in order of the control unit, the first bidirectional general-purpose interface, the external computer, the first bidirectional general-purpose interface, the control unit, and the second bidirectional general- second bidirectional general-purpose interface.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 5, 2001. Claims 24, 26, 27, 29, 58 and 59 are now presented for examination.